

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 AF-10

ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 OIC-04 RSR-01 /226 W

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R 031200 Z APR 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PASS AID

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: UNDP, UNCTAD, GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNDP PROJECT NO. INT/70/073/ A/01/40-- ADVISORY SERVICE

FOR MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 56428 B. GENEVA A-159

MISSION VIEWS REGARDING PROPOSED UNDP/ UNCTAD PROJECT CONTAINED
REF B WHICH WE PRESUME HAS NOW BEEN RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT.
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL COMMENTS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE REF A.

1. GATT ASSISTANT DIRGEN MATHUR TELLS US GATT SECRETARIAT HAS
FULFILLED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE SUBMITTED BY 30 LDCS AND HAS NO
ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REQUESTS ON HAND AT MOMENT. MARCH 29-30
SESSION OF CTD, BEING REPORTED SEPTEL, RESULTED IN NEW LDC
REQUESTS FOR GATT SEC ASSISTANCE IN EXPLAINING IMPLICATIONS FOR
LDCS OF GATT WORK ON NTBS. OF THIRTEEN NEW POSITIONS AUTHORIZED
IN GATT FOR MTN FOUR SLATED TO ASSIST LDCS BUT PRECISE NATURE OF
ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN NOT YET DEFINED. SINCE UNCTAD PROJECT
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ALSO IN EMBRYONIC STAGE IT NOT CLEAR HOW VARIOUS FUNCTIONS WILL BE DIVIDED.

2. WE WOULD EXPECT GATT SEC TO BE VERY CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT GIVING LDCS SPECIFIC ADVICE AS TO A PARTICULAR OBJECTIVE AN LDC SHOULD PURSUE IN NEGOTIATIONS; GATT SEC TRADITIONALLY LOOKS UPON ITSELF AS NEUTRAL SOURCE OF FACTUAL INFO, WILLING OF COURSE TO COMPILE MATERIAL IN WAY HELP LDCS IDENTIFY THEIR OWN INTERESTS. UNCTAD SEC, ON OTHER HAND, DOES NOT HAVE REPUTATION OF BEING HESITANT TO OFFER ADVICE TO GOVTS ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

3. COORDINATION BETWEEN GATT AND UNCTAD ON ASSISTANCE TO LDCS IS VERY LIMITED. UNCTAD SUBMITTED DRAFT UNDP PROJECT PROPOSAL TO GATT FOR COMMENTS BUT LATTER SCHOSE TO MAKE NONE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN TWO AGENCIES WILL IMPROVE AS PROJECT IS FURORER DEVELOPED BY UNCTAD PROJECT MANAGER C. SHIH WHO SPENT 25 YEARS WITH GATT AND RETAINS GOOD CONTACTS IN GATT SECRETARIAT. WHILE WE WOULD NOT ORDINARILY FAVOR UNCTAD HIRING FROM GATT STAFF FOR THIS PROJECT, WE UNDERSTAND SHIH HAD WANTED TO LEAVE GATT FOR SOME TIME AND WE THINK POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF HIS BACK-GROUND AND POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING STAFF RELATIONS ON THIS PROJECT MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR LOSS TO GATT. WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY FURTHER PLANS TO HIRE GATT STAFF.

4. WHILE DANGER OF POLITICIZATION ALWAYS PRESENT IN UNCTAD UNDERTAKINGS, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION SUGGESTING THAT UNCTAD IS PLANNING USE PROPOSED PROJECT AS RALLYING POINT FOR LDC CONFRONTATION TACTICS. FACT THAT SOMEONE WITH SHIH' S BACKGROUND HAS BEEN SELECTED TO MANAGE PROJECT COULD BE TAKEN AS INDICATION OF UNCTAD DESIRE FOR BUSINESS- LIKE APPROACH AND MAY MINIMIZE, IF NOT ELIMINATE, OBVIOUS SCOPE FOR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

5. AS INDICATED REF (B) MISSION FAR FROM ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LARGER UNCTAD ROLE IN MTN WHICH THIS PROJECT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, GIVEN UNCTAD' S UNCHALLENGEABLE STATUS AS EXECUTING AGENCY FOR UNDP- FUNDED PROJECTS, ITS CLEAR- CUT MANDATE IN AREA OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT, AND STRONG LDC SUPPORT FOR PROJECT WITH NO CORRESPONDING INDICATION THAT DCS WOULD FIND OUTRIGHT CHALLENGE TO PROJECT POLITICALLY PALATABLE (USG ITSELF SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 82/ III WITHOUT RECORDING RESERVATIONS, OBSERVATIONS OR EXPLANATIONS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY UNCTAD), WE BELIEVE CHANCES ARE VIRTUALLY NON- EXISTENT FOR SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON PROJECT IN UNDP GOVERNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND USG NOT CHALLENGE PROJECT

DIRECTLY

BUT SEEK TO INSURE IN GC DEBATE THAT OUR VARIOUS CONCERNS ARE
REFLECTED IN LANGUAGE OF COUNCIL DECISION AND ARE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT BY UNDP ADMINISTRATION. RIMESTAD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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